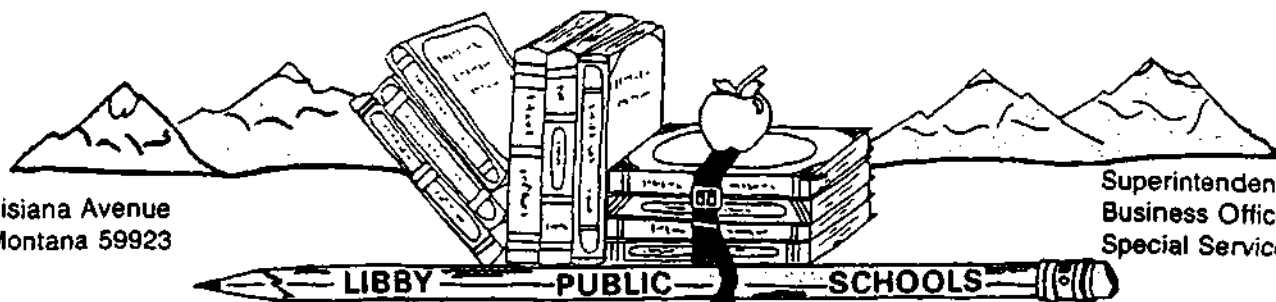


724 Louisiana Avenue  
Libby, Montana 59923



Superintendent 293-8811  
Business Office 293-8813  
Special Services 293-8815

February 20, 2002

SDMS Document ID



2030772

Nancy Reish  
US EPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ)  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466

RE: 2002 EPA Environmental Justice Grant

Dear Ms. Reish:

Please find enclosed an original and a copy of the Libby Public Schools' application for a 2002 EPA Environmental Justice Grant. We are respectfully requesting a \$14,931 multi-media grant to address issues related to school children in Libby who have been, or continue to be, exposed to asbestos.

I can think of no greater injustice than for society's most-vulnerable members, its children, to be exposed to a highly toxic substance at one of the places they are supposed to be kept safe: their schools. Our system has let these children down, by failing to protect them. Now, we are at risk of failing them again if we do not ensure that they are made aware of the health risks, informed about what they should be doing to monitor and protect their health, and included in any asbestos-related tracking, research or health care done in conjunction with the widespread occupational exposure to asbestos that exists in Libby. And we are at risk of failing those children in Libby who continue to be exposed to asbestos in their homes and neighborhoods.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you need further information or clarification about the purpose and goals of our proposed grant. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

K.W. Maki  
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosures

# APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OMB Approval No. 0343-0043

<b>1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:</b> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>2. DATE SUBMITTED</b> 2/21/02	Applicant Identifier
<b>3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE</b>		State Application Identifier	
<b>4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY</b>		Federal Identifier	

<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b> Legal Name: Libby Public Schools Address (give city, county, State, and zip code): 724 Louisiana Ave. Libby, Lincoln County, MT 59923		Organizational Unit:  Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) (406) 293-8811 K.W. Maki, Superintendent of Schools
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<b>6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):</b> 81-6000592	<b>7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box)</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           A. State            B. County            C. Municipal            D. Township            E. Interstate            F. Intermunicipal            G. Special District         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           H. Independent School Dist.  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H            I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning            J. Private University            K. Indian Tribe            L. Individual            M. Profit Organization            N. Other (Specify) _____         </div> </div>
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<b>8. TYPE OF APPLICATION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award    B. Decrease Award    C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration    Other(specify): _____	<b>9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:</b>  <b>10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:</b> Environmental Justice 66-604 TITLE: Small Grants Program <b>12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):</b> City of Libby, Lincoln County, in Montana
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<b>13. PROPOSED PROJECT</b> 09/01/02	<b>14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:</b> a. Applicant Montana, at-large	b. Project Montana, at-large	<b>16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?</b> a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE _____ b. No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW
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<b>15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:</b> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:20%;">a. Federal</td> <td style="width:10%;">\$</td> <td style="width:10%;">\$14,931<sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Applicant</td> <td>\$</td> <td><sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. State</td> <td>\$</td> <td><sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Local</td> <td>\$</td> <td><sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Other</td> <td>\$</td> <td><sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. Program Income</td> <td>\$</td> <td><sup>00</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td>\$</td> <td>\$14,931<sup>00</sup></td> </tr> </table>	a. Federal	\$	\$14,931 <sup>00</sup>	b. Applicant	\$	<sup>00</sup>	c. State	\$	<sup>00</sup>	d. Local	\$	<sup>00</sup>	e. Other	\$	<sup>00</sup>	f. Program Income	\$	<sup>00</sup>	g. TOTAL	\$	\$14,931 <sup>00</sup>	<b>17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a. Federal	\$	\$14,931 <sup>00</sup>																				
b. Applicant	\$	<sup>00</sup>																				
c. State	\$	<sup>00</sup>																				
d. Local	\$	<sup>00</sup>																				
e. Other	\$	<sup>00</sup>																				
f. Program Income	\$	<sup>00</sup>																				
g. TOTAL	\$	\$14,931 <sup>00</sup>																				

<b>18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.</b>		
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative K.W. Maki	b. Title Superintendent of Schools	c. Telephone Number (406) 293-8811
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 2/21/02

# BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

## SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Environmental <del>Justice Small Grant</del>	66-604	\$ 14,931	\$	\$	\$	\$ 14,931
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$ 14,931	\$	\$	\$	\$ 14,931

## SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 9,984	\$	\$	\$	\$ 9,984
b. Fringe Benefits	1,697				1,697
c. Travel					
d. Equipment	1,200				1,200
e. Supplies	250				250
f. Contractual					
g. Construction					
h. Other	1,800				1,800
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	14,931				14,931
j. Indirect Charges					
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$14,931	\$	\$	\$	\$ 14,931
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES				
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	\$	\$	\$	\$
9.				
10.				
11.				
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 14,931	\$ 4,257.75	\$ 3,057.75	\$ 3,807.75	\$ 3,807.75
14. Non-Federal					
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 14,931	\$ 4,257.75	\$ 3,057.75	\$ 3,807.75	\$ 3,807.75

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT				
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	\$	\$	\$	\$
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION	
21. Direct Charges: see budget detail (attached)	22. Indirect Charges:
23. Remarks:	

## BUDGET DETAIL

I.	<u>Personnel</u>	
	.4 FTE Project Coordinator @ \$12/hour	\$ 9,984
	Project director – Superintendent of Schools	in-kind
II.	<u>Fringe Benefits at 17%</u>	
	.4 FTE Project Coordinator	\$ 1,697
III.	<u>Equipment</u>	
	Computer and database software	\$ 1,200
	Printer, printer supplies, support	in-kind
IV.	<u>Office Supplies</u>	
	Paper, pens/pencils, envelopes, etc.	\$ 250
V.	<u>Mailings</u>	
	Postage	\$ 1,000
	Printing	\$ 500
VI.	<u>Communications</u>	
	Local telephone service	in-kind
	Long Distance Telephone & Internet expenses	\$ 300
	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$14,931</u></b>

**Summary:** The Libby (Montana) Public Schools request an EPA multi-media environmental justice grant of \$14,931 to create a *School Children Exposed to Asbestos Program*.

**Environmental Justice Issue to be Addressed:** This grant will provide the solution to one of the community's problems related to disproportionate, high and adverse exposure to toxic pollutants: that is, that children exposed to asbestos at schools in the town of Libby, Montana because of the use of contaminated vermiculite mine waste as fill at those schools are currently left out of the system of education, tracking and treatment of Asbestos Related Disease (ARD). In addition, school children in Libby, a poor rural town in northwest Montana, continue to be at risk of exposure to asbestos, and this grant will reduce continued or future exposure by improving communication with families and increasing their understanding of potential asbestos exposure hazards to their children. Finally, by tracking the identity and whereabouts of those exposed as children to asbestos, it will create greater research opportunities into the long-term effects of asbestos on children in the future, an opportunity that would otherwise be lost.

**Environmental Justice Community/Target Audience:** The target audience for this grant includes: former students of the Libby High School, Libby Junior High, and Plummer Elementary School; families of former students; and students and families of current students. This program will be a partnership between the school district, parents, the Community Advisory Group, health care providers, and state and federal agencies working on asbestos-related issues.

**Environmental Statutes/Acts to be Addressed by the Project:**

- *Solid Waste Disposal Act:* public education and research relating to solid waste, including health and welfare effects of exposure to solid waste materials. Solid waste from the vermiculite mine was used as fill at the junior high and high school and at Plummer Elementary School in Libby, Montana.
- *Clean Air Act:* research and studies related to the effects, including health and welfare effects, and prevention and control of these effects in the future. Asbestos fibers primarily negatively impact health when they become airborne, and are breathed into the respiratory system. Little is known of the long-term effects of airborne asbestos exposure in children, and the pervasiveness of asbestos in Libby makes exposure of children an important issue.
- *Toxic Substances Control Act:* research, public education, and studies on toxic substances. Asbestos is a known toxic substance; this grant would complement work already being done in Libby due to its Superfund status.
- *CERCLA:* The Superfund program is currently involved in asbestos cleanup in Libby.

**Program Goals the Project Will Meet:**

- Improve communication and coordination and create partnerships among stakeholders. The school district will work closely with community groups, federal and state officials, health care providers and others addressing the problems related to asbestos exposure in Libby. Community volunteers will be actively involved in the process as well.
- Enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems and generate information on pollution in the community. The school district will disseminate information to both former and current students and their families about potential health risks of asbestos exposure and on ways that they can reduce the negative health consequences of asbestos exposure (not smoking or breathing secondhand smoke, avoiding dusty environments).

## **Introduction**

**Nature of organization applying.** The Libby Public School System is the entity applying for this grant; however, the project is one that was conceptualized by members of the community, who recognized the need and are willing to take leadership roles in its implementation. Because of potential confidentiality issues, the information gathered on students in the district may need to remain the possession of the school district at least initially, until permission is granted to release this information; for this reason, it was not possible to have a non-profit organization as lead agency for the project at this time.

**Success of past efforts.** The community has been very active and successful in their efforts to organize around asbestos-related issues. The Community Advisory Group, of which the school superintendent is a member, meets twice a month, and there is a separate non-profit organization to advocate for individuals exposed to asbestos. Certainly, the community has been successful in bringing attention to the significant problem of asbestos in the community.

**Purposes of the project.** The purposes of this project are:

1. Identify, educate and track those individuals who attended Libby schools contaminated by asbestos. This will provide a mechanism whereby these individuals and their families will be informed about the potential health consequences of their exposure; they can give and receive information in the future; and they can be included in any medical initiatives around asbestos that are developed down the road, including both research into the effects of childhood exposure to asbestos and programs to provide health care or health care assistance.

2. Protect current Libby school children from future exposure to asbestos. The school system is an excellent conduit for providing information to children and their families about the dangers of exposure to asbestos. This is important because of the pervasive use of vermiculite from the mine for household uses, including insulation and garden conditioning.

**Environmental justice community/target audience:** Demographically, Libby is defined as a "frontier" community with high levels of unemployment (12.1%) and poverty (53.8% are at or below 200% of poverty, including 22% that are at or below 100% of poverty). Because of exposure to tremolite asbestos through vermiculite mining and secondary exposures, Lincoln County has the second highest per capita death rate from asbestos in the U.S.: 5.7 per 100,000 people, compared to the U.S. rate of just .29 per 100,000. The target audience for this grant is those who were exposed as children to asbestos at school, and children at risk of future community exposure. This program will be a partnership between the school district, parents and other community volunteers, the Community Advisory Group, health care providers, and state and federal agencies currently working on asbestos remediation and public health issues.

**Project time line.** We anticipate being able to complete the work of this grant within 12 months of notification of the grant award. A more detailed timeline is included in the conclusion.

**Expected results.** As a result of this project, fewer children will be exposed to asbestos in the community and former students will be informed of health risks of past exposure and what they should do to monitor their health later in life. An updateable database of potentially affected individuals and their contact information will also be created to use in the study of childhood asbestos exposure and to help ensure that these individuals will have access to asbestos-related health care systems that may be created in the future.

### Project Description

Libby, Montana, was home to vermiculite mining operations through much of the twentieth century. During the course of the mine's operations, solid waste from the mine that was contaminated with tremolite asbestos was used for fill at the high school and middle school and at Plummer Elementary School. Children playing there likely inhaled tremolite fibers that were released into the air. Recently, the area has been placed on the Superfund National Priority list. Cleanup has begun to remove the hazards of tremolite asbestos from the community. This cleanup includes removing contaminated soil from the schools.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has recently completed screenings of over 6,000 adults from Libby with occupational asbestos exposure. The community will be working with state and federal agencies to track these individuals and monitor their health. However, nothing has been done to screen those who were exposed as children to asbestos at school. Reasons for this include: ATSDR does not recommend x-rays for those under 18; there is no reliable test to detect lung abnormalities in young children; and it is unlikely, because of the long latency period for asbestos-related diseases, that effects would be detectable yet. *Community members feel an injustice has been done:* first, because society's most vulnerable members, its children, were subjected to toxic exposure in the first place; and second, since no tracking is being done of those who may have been exposed to asbestos at school, these individuals will not receive health information that may be important to them, and may not be able to receive care should a comprehensive asbestos care program be developed. In addition, the opportunity to research the effects of childhood exposure to asbestos will be lost.

The school district proposes to begin a community-supported effort to identify those who attended schools during periods of likely asbestos exposure. Those identified would then be tracked. The individuals (if now adults) or their families (if still children) would be contacted to inform them of the existence of potential risk. A mechanism would be set up so those identified could update their address information with the school district. The school district would then work with other agencies to ensure that this information is included in any databases that are developed. With community support, the school district expects to be able to maintain and update the database on its own once the initial work of identifying, contacting and entering information is completed.

The school district also plans to do educational outreach to the entire student population regarding exposure to asbestos, and how to avoid exposure from other sources in the community (e.g. vermiculite that was widely used as insulation and garden conditioner), and on ways that they can reduce their risk of negative health consequences of asbestos exposure (not smoking or breathing secondhand smoke, avoiding dusty environments).

This project will meet Environmental Justice multi-media project goal (1) in that it will improve the communication and coordination between existing stakeholders and a new group of stakeholders: the children of Libby and former students of the school system. It will facilitate communication, and create a partnership that will ensure that these former students will be included in any new systems, along with those who were exposed to asbestos occupationally. There already has been an outpouring of community interest in helping with this project.

The project will also meet Environmental Justice Multi-media project goal (3) by increasing the community's understanding of environmental and public health information systems and generating information on pollution in the community. It will do this both by contacting former students and their families about past exposure to asbestos, and by using the



highly effective conduit of current students to reach families and the community at large to reduce future exposure and eliminate health risks.

### Conclusion

The table below shows the activities that will be undertaken under this grant, who will be involved, what the timeline is, and how success will be measured.

Activity	Who is Involved	Timeline	Evaluation of success
Hire project coordinator	superintendent of schools, members of the community	September, 2002	Project coordinator hired by end of September
Develop volunteer committee to assist with project	project coordinator, existing community groups	October – December 2002	Committee of at least six volunteers identified by end of 2002
Work with stakeholder groups to facilitate information exchange	project coordinator, volunteers	October 2002 – September 2002	Attend half of CAG meetings and monthly meetings with other agencies and organizations dealing with asbestos exposure
Develop database of former students from class lists, personal information, etc.	project coordinator, community volunteers	December 2002 – May 2003	Creation of a user-friendly, updateable database that is compatible with other data systems with at least 80% of targeted former students included
Distribute information to former students and their families	Project coordinator, community volunteers	June – July 2003	Goal accomplished on schedule
Work with agencies & community groups on education campaign for current students which involves students themselves (poster contests, video productions, etc.)	Project coordinator, school teachers and administrators, federal and state agency officials, community volunteers	October 2002 – May 2003	Each student in the district should receive at least: two mailings home to families about asbestos; one classroom presentation about reducing exposure and negative health consequences; one age-appropriate student activity around asbestos.

Anticipated Benefits of the Project: A cost-benefit analysis would reveal that the relatively small cost of this project will reap tremendous benefits in the years to come. These include:

- reduced exposure to asbestos by Libby children, reducing the number suffering asbestos-related health effects in the future
- identification of hundreds of former students who may have been exposed to asbestos at school, so they may be included in state and federal tracking and research projects;
- providing these former students with information about appropriate steps they should take in

the future to assess their health and to reduce the negative health effects (such as reducing exposure to tobacco smoke).

- diminishing community anxiety around the exposure of school children to asbestos. The Libby community feels that a tremendous injustice was done when their most vulnerable members, the children, were exposed to asbestos while attending public school. This anxiety has been compounded by a feeling that "nothing is being done" to insure that those exposed at school are included in asbestos-related education, tracking, and health care measures. This grant will give community members a way that they can do something for their children to ameliorate the consequences of school-based asbestos exposure.

Challenges in Implementing the Project: We do not anticipate any significant challenges to implementing this project. The main obstacle to this project not being implemented to date is lack of funding for a coordinator to organize community efforts; this grant will eliminate this obstacle.

#### Appendix : Individuals who will be involved in the project:

##### Project Director:

**Kirby Maki, M.Ed.** Univ. of Montana, 1986, B.S. Western Montana College, 1969.

*1999 – present: Superintendent of Schools, Libby School District # 4.*

Examples of new initiatives executed by Mr. Maki: Central Alternative School – allowing students to complete their high school education in a different environment; "Running Start" – a partnership between Libby Public Schools and FVCC/Lincoln County Campus, so students can receive high school and college credit; Project Impact (FEMA) – providing students with "hands-on" experience in community improvement projects, opportunities for research, and a chance to participate in community master plan process; Teleconference Learning Center Partnership – a joint project of the schools and the National Guard to provide access to the Guard's teleconference center and distance learning lab

1989 – 1999: Superintendent/Activities Director, Corvallis School District #1, Corvallis, MT.

1986 – 1989: Principal/Activities Director, Grades 7 – 12, Corvallis School District.

1978 – 1985: Teacher, Coach, Activities Director, High School, Corvallis School District.

1969 – 1985: Various teaching and educational positions in Montana and Idaho

##### Community Volunteer Liaison:

**Mrs. Iva DeShazer.**

Mrs. DeShazer is a lifelong resident of Libby, Montana. Mrs. DeShazer's husband is a victim of asbestosis. He acquired this from secondhand exposure to asbestos from tremolite-laden vermiculite brought home by family members who worked in the mines. Mrs. DeShazer's daughter ran track at the Libby High School. The track was created using solid waste from the vermiculite mine. Mrs. DeShazer believes that her daughter is already showing signs of asbestos-related health problems, primarily around pulmonary function. She approached Mr. Maki in 2001 and offered to volunteer to work on developing and implementing the project described in this grant for children exposed to asbestos. Because of her extensive, lifelong connections to the Libby community, Mrs. DeShazer is well-suited for working with different community groups, as well as the school and state and federal agencies, to ensure that a collaborative system is developed. As a retiree, Mrs. DeShazer will be able to devote considerable time to this project.

Libby Area  
Community  
Advisory Group

February 14, 2002

Ron Anderson  
Lincoln County

Kerry Beasley  
St. John's Lutheran Hospital

Gayla Benefield  
LCAVRO

George Bauer  
City of Libby

Dr. Brad Black  
Lincoln County Health Officer  
CARD

Eileen Carney  
State Rep., Dist. 82

Bob Dedrick  
Asbestos Victim

Robert H. Foote  
Libby Ministerial Association

Georgia Keck, Lincoln City  
Community Health Center

David Latham  
The Montarian Newspaper

Cyrus Lee  
Kootenai Valley Headstart

K.W. Maki  
Libby School District #4

Clinton Maynard  
Area Asbestos Research Group

Rick Palagi  
St. John's Lutheran Hospital

Norita Skramstad  
Asbestos Victim

Gary Spencer  
Glacier Bank

Mike Switzer  
Asbestos Victim

Leroy Thom  
Former W.R. Grace employee

Sandy Wagner  
LCOHC

Don Wilkins  
Lumber & Sawmill Workers #2581

Wilbur Wilson  
Lincoln County Council on Aging

Ms. Nancy Reish  
US EPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ)  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 802202-2466

Dear Ms. Reish:

This letter from the Libby Area Community Advisory Group (CAG) is in support of the Lincoln County school district's EPA Environmental Justice Grant application, "School Children Exposed to Asbestos."

Members of the Libby CAG represent a broad cross section of our community. We are all concerned about exposure to asbestos. Some of us have suffered from asbestos-related diseases ourselves, while others have lost loved ones because of asbestosis. Many of us are just concerned citizens doing what we can to help improve the situation here. We take our role of trying to protect the health and welfare of the people of Libby seriously, and are committed to personally doing what we can to insure that everything possible is done to clean up Libby, protect the health of the residents, and take care of those who suffer from, or are at risk of suffering from, the health consequences of asbestos exposure.

That our community's most vulnerable members, its children, were exposed to asbestos at our public schools is appalling. That they may be left out of a system of tracking, education and health care because they are too young to be screened is unacceptable and unjust. CAG members and others in the community are committed to doing everything we can to make sure that these children and their families are not left behind. This includes volunteering to help in the work of this grant, should we be awarded it. Also, as the EPA considers whether to declare a Public Health Emergency in Libby, we want to make sure as few children as possible continue to be exposed to asbestos in our community. We therefore support efforts to use the school system to help educate children and their families about avoiding asbestos exposure and reducing the negative health effects of asbestos.

We hope that you will help the community of Libby to include current and former school children in our future efforts, by awarding this environmental justice grant to our schools. Thank you.

Gerald Mueller  
CAG Facilitator

**The following Libby Community Advisory Group (CAG) members were present at the February 14, 2002 CAG meeting and agreed unanimously to the attached letter signed by Gerald Mueller, the CAG facilitator, on the behalf of the CAG:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Group/Organization Represented</b>
Robert H. Foote	Libby Ministerial Association
Sandy Wagner	Lincoln County Community Health Center (LCCHC)
George Keck	LCCHC
Cyrus Lee	Kootenai Valley Headstart
Ron Anderson	Lincoln County
Bob Dedrick	Asbestos Victim
George Bauer	City of Libby
Ken Hays	Senior Citizens
David Latham	<i>The Montanian Newspaper</i>
Leroy Thom	Former W.R. Grace employee
Gary Spencer	Citizen
Gayla Benefield	LCAVRO
Norita Skramstad	Asbestos Victim
Eileen Carney	State Legislature
Clinton Maynard	Area Asbestos Research Group

**Kootenai Valley Head Start***"Building the community by strengthening families"*

247 Indian Head Road

Libby, Montana 59923

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2/20/02

Ms. Nancy Reish

US EPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ)

999 18th Street, Suite 500

Denver, CO 802202-2466

Dear Ms. Reish:

Kootenai Valley Head Start is in support of the Libby School District's EPA Environmental Justice Grant application, "School Children Exposed to Asbestos."

Our program has delivered services to children and families in our local community since 1995. We advocate for the building of strong families.

The asbestos exposure in our community has impacted many of our families. There has been illness as well as loss of life. Most families also know someone else in our small community who is impacted. A member of our staff serves on the Community Advisory group to bring all pertinent data back to our program and families to keep them educated and informed concerning the asbestos exposure. We are also looking at mental health services to offer to our families and make medical referrals.

It is extremely obvious that many of the children we serve could also be affected by this exposure but this fact may not show up for many years. Children of our town need to be educated, tracked and be the future recipients of appropriate health care when asbestosis or other related forms of exposure occur.

It is very important to us also that the exposure is ended. Superfund listing is important but public health emergency status will clean up exposure sites now, so children will not continue to be put at risk. Many of our children right now may be living in asbestos laden homes.

KVHS gladly offers whatever means of support we can provide to assist with this grant for our community. Since our program began we have been in partnership with the Libby Public School district and our program currently occupies the Plummer school facility.

Sincerely, Marki Chandler, Director

Phone: 406-293-4902

kvstart@libby.org

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February 20, 2002



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND  
SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

- 24-hour  
Crisis Line
- Emergency  
Shelter
- Personal  
Advocacy
- Court Escorts
- Battered  
Women's  
Support Group
- Sexual Assault  
Support Group
- Information &  
Referral

P.O. Box 2  
Libby, MT 59923

Crisis Line:  
406-293-3223  
Office: 406-293-9141  
Fax: 406-293-2225  
Email: lcwhl@libby.org  
www.libby.org/~lcwhl

Ms. Nancy Reish  
US EPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ)  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 802202-2466

Dear Ms. Reish:

It is with great support and need that I write you this "support letter" for the Libby School District. Our community is faced with many uncertainties and changes due to the asbestoses health issues. This creates many stressors for families, which impact the dynamics of families in our community and ways in which they cope. Our program alone has struggled with the increasing caseload due to these stressors. The availability of continuity and comprehensive services to families and their children begins with the development of connections between home and the care of education, health and social services in the community.

It is imperative to the future of our community that we can form partnerships and implement support services for our families. Children are our future and the need for tracking students for asbestoses medical screening is critical! The Libby School District is one of our most valuable resources and an important link in providing our children with needed services. We need education in the schools to address these health issues and reduce the negative health effects and impact of asbestos.

I personally have worked in the schools and have seen and heard parents concerns and children's anxiety regarding the uncertainty of this issue. The Libby School District is already providing the best that they can in a limited capacity due to budget constraints, staff cuts, and available time. We cannot expect to put more on their plate without added support. This grant would assist our school district, our community, and our children greatly to insure that we are doing everything possible to improve our plight here and to secure some stability of a future for them. Please give every consideration to awarding this grant that is so desperately needed in our community.

Please feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do to show our support!

Sincerely,

*Connie Y. Love*  
Connie Y. Love, Executive Director